





# INTIMATIONS. HONGKONG TRADING CO. LD. (Late The Hong & Hong Co. Ltd.)

## GENTLEMEN'S GLOVES

In all Sizes.

Also

A Full Assortment of

OUTFITTING

GOODS

for

AUTUMN AND WINTER WEAR

HONGKONG TRADING CO. LD.

Hongkong, 21st October, 1890.

WINE AND SPIRITS

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1841.)

HONGKONG.

We have the following old brandy, all of which is of excellent quality and great value for the money.

The brandy is specially selected by our

own agents, and is of the most

pure and genuine, and is of the

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the office has been created or reconstituted, or the salary raised or altered since 1875, regard is to be had to the merits of the particular case. All cases of this description have, however, been dealt with in a very liberal manner in the Estimates, the increase being apparently in some instances above that sanctioned by the Secretary of State. It is with reference to those members of the Service who have been left out in the cold that the unofficial members are solicitous. The Government is taking a week to consider what it will do in respect of the request of the unofficial members to be supplied with information as to the grounds of refusal where the increase has not been allowed.

It may be admitted, perhaps, that there would be a certain amount of unpleasantness attaching to the publication of all the correspondence that has passed in reference to the applications for an increase in particular cases, but on the other hand the applicants are undoubtedly entitled to have their cases heard if they think justice has not been done to them. It is not impossible that the Government in apportioning the increase on the basis of the Secretary of State's despatch may have misinterpreted portions of the document, and it is desirable that the decision should be subject to revision by an independent tribunal. But the Secretary of State himself may also have done injustice. The Government, it is true, are bound by the despatch, but a right of criticism undoubtedly rests with the unofficial members, and if in any case injustice appears to have been done it is their duty to inquire into it, and if they see good reason to make representations on the subject. By the rules unofficial members are not at liberty to propose expenditure; they may reduce but they cannot increase money votes. They are, however, at liberty to make recommendations, which, in the matter of expenditure of money, seldom fail of their effect. Now if the unofficial members would accept the task—and it might possibly prove not a very light one—it would be an excellent thing if they would move for the appointment of a committee to examine and report upon the new scale of pay, the committee to consist of the unofficial members, the Colonial Secretary, and the Attorney-General. Such a committee, if appointed, would be able to go into the whole circumstances of each case, considering it on equitable grounds as well as in reference to the express directions of the Secretary of State, and if they found that in their application the principles laid down by the Secretary of State would hardly any recommendations they might see fit to make would carry great weight, and, in fact, be practically conclusive. If it were considered unreasonable that the discussion should be carried on in public the Committee could pursue its investigation with closed doors. Ordinarily we are strong advocates for publicity in the proceedings of public bodies, but there is no rule that does not admit of exceptions.

We have already noticed at some length the various changes proposed in the Estimates as they affect salaries, and from the facts and figures then given we think it will be admitted that some independent revision of the new scale is desirable. However strong the desire may have been in the Colonial Secretary's Office to deal fairly with all parties it was almost inevitable that mistakes should creep into the calculations. We do not propose to again go over the ground traversed in our previous article, but there is one case which deserves attention at this occasion which deserves mention. This occurs in the Police Department. While the Captain Superintendent, the Inspectors, and the Sergeants got an increase the Chief Inspector's pay remains the same in the Estimates for 1891 that it was in those for 1875. The omission seems to call for some explanation, even going on the bare letter of the Secretary of State's despatch. The inequality of the increase that have been allowed according to the Estimates should also receive some consideration. Both the public, who are going to pay the money, and the Civil Service, who are to receive it, would feel better satisfied if the whole matter were passed under review by the unofficial members of Council.

The Superintendent informs us that the P. & O. steamer *London* left Singapore for this port on 8th yesterday.

Full particulars of the recent serious fire at Canton will be found in the translations from the *Kung-pao*, No. 10, published in another column.

The Agents (Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.) have received the *Yokohama Maru* on the 21st inst. The vessel arrived at Yanchow on the 25th inst.

The Singapore meeting of the Marine Company Board for yesterday afternoon, the 22nd, following to three or four being a sufficient number of shareholders present to form a quorum.

We would remind our readers of Mr. Frank Limb's entertainment at the Theatre Royal this evening. To-morrow Mr. Limb's company will entertain at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening.

A sergeant and twenty-five men for the Chinese contingent of the Singapore Police, selected by Mr. Horspool, Deputy Superintendent of Police, left yesterday by the steamer *Arcton* for Hongkong.

We have received from Mr. D. K. Griffith, photographer, some specimens of the Chinese and other views of Hongkong with English and other verses. The views are, it is unnecessary to say, extremely good, and will be a pleasant reminder to friends at home at the Christmas season.

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